AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A sustained-release preparation which comprises:

a drug having a molecular weight of about 10,000 or less; and

a gelatin hydrogel,

wherein the drug is impregnated into said gelatin hydrogel through a surface thereof and is immobilized in said hydrogel by physiochemical interaction, and

said hydrogel having a concentration gradient of the drug such that said concentration gradient being higher at said surface than in other parts of said hydrogel in said sustained-release preparation, and the drug is immobilized within said hydrogel by said physiochemical interaction, thereby controlling the directionality of the sustained release of the drug upon administration of the sustained-release preparation, and

said sustained-release preparation is sterile.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Previously Presented)** A method of sustained release of a drug in vivo comprising:

administering a sustained-release preparation to a patient in need thereof, said preparation comprising a drug having a molecular weight of about 10,000 or less and a gelatin hydrogel,

wherein said hydrogel has a concentration gradient of the drug in said sustained-release preparation, wherein degradation of the gelatin hydrogel *in vivo* causes more drug to be released from a region with higher drug concentration, thereby giving said sustained release of the drug, wherein the drug is impregnated into said gelatin hydrogel through a surface thereof and is immobilized in said hydrogel by physiochemical interaction, said concentration gradient being higher at said surface than in other parts of said hydrogel, and said sustained-release preparation is sterile.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, where said administration is topical.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 1, wherein the drug is impregnated into said gelatin hydrogel by ionic bonding.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 1, wherein the preparation is in solid or semi-solid form.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A sustained-release preparation which comprises:

a drug having a molecular weight of about 10,000 or less; and

a crosslinked gelatin hydrogel,

said sustained-release preparation being made by adding an aqueous solution of said drug dropwise to said crosslinked gelatin hydrogel, thereby impregnating said drug into said crosslinked gelatin hydrogel through a surface thereof, immobilizing said drug in said

crosslinked gelatin hydrogel by physiochemical interaction between said drug and crosslinked gelatin hydrogel, and forming a concentration gradient of the drug in the crosslinked gelatin hydrogel such that said concentration gradient is higher at said surface than in other parts of said hydrogel in said sustained-release preparation, wherein the amount of aqueous solution being added dropwise causes swelling of the crosslinked gelatin hydrogel and wherein said sustained-release preparation is sterile.

8-10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(New)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 1, in a form suitable for topical application.

12. **(New)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 7, in a form suitable for topical application.

13. **(New)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 1, which is in a solid or semisolid single dose form containing 0.01 to 10,000 μg of said drug.

14. **(New)** The method of claim 3, wherein said sustained release preparation is in a solid or semisolid single dose form containing 0.01 to 10,000 μg of said drug.

15. **(New)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 7, in a solid or semisolid single dose form containing 0.01 to 10,000 μg of said drug.

16. **(New)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 1, which is in a solid single dose form containing 0.1 to 1,000 μg of said drug.

17. **(New)** The method of claim 3, wherein said sustained release preparation is in a solid single dose form containing 0.1 to 1,000 μg of said drug.

18. **(New)** The sustained-release preparation of claim 7, in a solid single dose form containing 0.1 to 1,000 μg of said drug.